

Comments & Feedback Welcome. See contact info below.

Work in progress, NG-Visioning Group

S15-S17 Anniversary Weekend 2012

AN OCCUPY VISION

[see backside for more info]

When the powers and practices of the prevailing society fail to support our fulfillment as equal participants in life, We, the People, need to proclaim our shared vision of the world yet to be and reaffirm the values that inform us.

We affirm the inherent worth, dignity, and potential of all existence and our profound connection to the web of all existence of which we are a part. Therefore we are guided by a vision that includes

- ★ A world where the water, air and food are clean, so that both our planet and its people may be healthy.
- ★ Free education for all, so that information can be shared and used to benefit and enrich our society.
- ★ A world without war, so that people of every culture and nation may be free to develop and learn from one another without the distortion and exclusion that results from seeing one another as enemies.
- ★ A sustainable human society, where people are respected, valued, encouraged, and recognized as our first priority.
- ★ A culture of direct democracy and universal participation, where political and social decisions are made in a transparent manner for the common good.
- ★ Free universal physical and psychological healthcare, so that all people may be able to use their abilities and enjoy their lives as fully as possible.
- ★ Economic equality, so that all people may have the opportunity to have sufficient material resources for their needs, free from exploitation by others.
- ★ Freedom, so that all people may be empowered and included in the future we envision.

We recognize that each person is endowed with a unique perspective and potential that adds to the sum total of our world, and that by working together we achieve our vision.

We invite all to join us, contribute to it, and participate in it as we and it change and grow.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Since OWS began one year ago, many individual Occupy groups around the country have developed various statements or declarations of goals, issues, and actions. Some Occupys developed vision statements.

Recognizing the importance of an overall vision to the Occupy movement, the organizers of Occupy's National Gathering in Philadelphia PA in July 2012 included a visioning process. Three days of teach ins, workshops, and speak outs on many topics vital to Occupy led up to Independence Day, when about 250 persons at NatGat participated in a group vision exercise that resulted in a 7-page list of vision elements.

Subsequent to NatGat, those interested in vision follow-up formed a work group. This group has developed the draft material being shared this anniversary weekend in hopes of engaging more persons in developing an Occupy Vision, obtaining valuable feedback, and moving forward towards a draft Vision Statement that can be shared broadly for Occupy consideration.

We welcome you to join the Occupy visioning experiment!

derived from the Visioning Activities at the OCCUPY NATIONAL GATHERING Philadelphia, PA - July 2012

For more info, see <http://interoccupy.net/vision> ←
Submit comments via listemail, sign up at
or email to fbwood@hotmail.com

ILLUSTRATIVE CATEGORY LIST (FOR DISCUSSION & FEEDBACK)

Illustrative Vision Categories that were derived from the NatGat Visioning List, with number of NatGat mentions in brackets, followed by other broader categories, including those based on the Metacenter work.

For the complete list, see the NatGat Vision Hub Wiki, <http://interoccupy.net/vision>

[203] CLEAN AIR, WATER, FOOD: ENVIRONMENTAL

- [106] Local food production, community gardens, permaculture agriculture;
- [28] access to real nourishing, nonchemical, non-GMO food; food supply that is humane & natural;
- [25] environmental justice;
- [20] environmental awareness and respect;
- [9] healthier diets and lifestyles;
- [8] affordable, healthy food;
- [8] clean water as a right;
- [8] end hunger;
- [7] connection to earth.

[186] FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL: CULTURAL

- [13] all airwaves public;
- [10] end to intellectual property, such that there is free & open sharing of information
- [9] free & open communications;
- [9] real education, free & equal, democratized;
- [8] universal access to data.

[158] NO WAR: PEACE AND SECURITY/POLITICAL

- [39] peace, nonviolence, no war/death machines; no military; no need for violent conflict or guns;
- [17] no global us vs them;
- [12] nonviolence;
- [10] friendship, rather than strangership, as the default relationship among people;
- [9] mutual respect between cultures or trading nations;
- [8] nonviolent interpersonal and international conflict resolution;
- [6] world peace.

[116] SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SOCIETY: CULTURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL

- [93] a world where basic needs are met;
- [72] all cultures respected equally;
- [67] people feel empowered, free, & unafraid;
- [61] a strong sense of community;
- [60] safety for everyone from domestic violence & fear;
- [53] all human life valued equally;

- [42] all decisions considered for seven generations in the future;
- [37] more humanity, compassion, kindness, selflessness;
- [31] . . . mutually beneficial relationship between humans, the earth, and its inhabitants; acting with consideration for the community, world, & everything else.

[110] A CULTURE OF DIRECT DEMOCRACY: DEMOCRACY & SOCIAL JUSTICE/POLITICAL

- [61] no money in politics;
- [30] end two-party system;
- [29] local community control;
- [22] consensus-based democracy;
- [21] just and fair legal system;
- [18] truth in journalism/illegal to lie;
- [16] minorities have power & voice (rule by diversity);
- [15] no tax without representation;
- [9] a fair electoral system;
- [9] accountable government;
- [9] democratic process that works for all.

[108] FREE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE: CULTURAL/ECONOMIC

- [52] health care emphasizes preventative & alternative measures;
- [33] free health care (accessible & state of the art);
- [10] full control of our own bodies, incl. shared ownership of the means of preventative health care;
- [9] free therapy & emotional/mental health care.

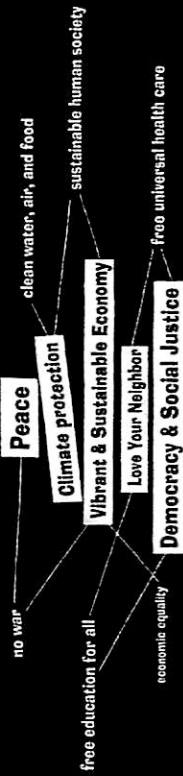
[104] ECONOMIC EQUALITY: VIBRANT & SOUND ECONOMY/PROSPERITY

- [95] localized economies;
- [48] no corporate personhood;
- [30] fairness & equality for all beings (including ecosystems, resources);
- [26] banks & corporations required to act responsibly, answering to many, not few;
- [19] radicalized labor unions;
- [19] international corporate accountability;
- [17] fair trade & fair working conditions.

[79] FREEDOM: POLITICAL/CULTURAL

- [79] freedom to live anywhere: no borders, no nations;
- [19] freedom of knowledge and press;
- [16] freedom of religion;
- [12] freedom of expression protected;
- [9] free, equal access to opportunity.

derived from the Visioning Activities at the OCCUPY NATIONAL GATHERING Philadelphia, PA - July 2012



OCCUPY VISION STATEMENTS

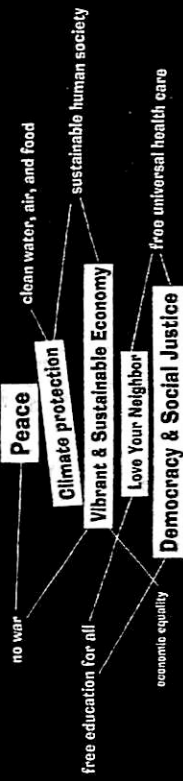
A QUICK HISTORY OF THE OCCUPY VISION EXPERIMENT

On Dec. 17, 2011, a group of Occupy Wall Street protestors organized a meeting of the minds at Pace University in New York City. The entire event was organized in an Un-Conference model, providing horizontal access to sharing and workshops, but one event stood out as extra special. At the end of the day a group of Occupiers from Seattle to Portland to Los Angeles to Philadelphia and everywhere in between gathered to take part in a visioning exercise in which we evaluated the present & future state of the movement. The project was a success in that folks felt like they were able to participate and be heard in the end result. Though no collective document was intended, the exercise provided the framework necessary for any such document to be written. A small group of Philadelphians were inspired that day and decided to take it home.

In the following months, the Committee of Correspondence working group of Occupy Philly decided to ask the movement its opinion of all of us gathering in one place at one time for one purpose. The result: Occupy National Gathering took place from June 30th to July 4th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for "five days of peace, love, and democracy". During this time, Occupiers from around the country participated in workshops, skill shares, and movement-building exercises, culminating in was the crafting of the "Vision for a Democratic Future".

The Vision was itself a vision of taking the exercises practiced at the New York Un-Conference and applying efficient and scaleable models on a national scale. The National Gathering working group—the open, horizontal national working group that met on InterOccupy calls weekly to democratically conceive of, plan, and carry out the National Gathering—came to consensus on a proposal to practice this exercise as the climax of the National Gathering on July 4th. The resulting document would not pretend to represent the movement; on the contrary, it has been presented as the work of activists and generally fed-up people who cared enough about the direction of our country and our world to gather together with one mind and with one purpose: to participate in this event.

The "Vision of a Democratic Future" represents a specific place in (over)



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time. We can remember participating in that process as one of those moments when we felt like we were doing the right thing. We were coming together to have a conversation about the direction of our world. We succeeded. One only need read through the vision to notice both a sample of clearly defined common values and also a willingness of different folks from different places with different ideas to have a productive conversation about the future without arguing or debating, instead building on each other's ideas. What is most important about the Vision is its future. This model was created to be easy and replicable by any people or group who want to collectively build a vision so that they can have clearer goals, strategies, and tactics. Several groups around the country and the world have practiced this vision process and have clearly defined their shared common values.

What we have in common is much more than we give ourselves credit for. We all want clean air, water, and food. We all want our families cared for. We all want a first-rate education for our children and health care for our parents. However, in this Vision document we came together & agreed to craft a document to present to the world, essentially saying to those who are confused by the Occupy movement, "We, Occupy protestors, are from many places and many times. We cannot issue demands because we do not believe in demanding. We believe in collective action. And we believe that if we all worked together in peace and harmony as a global family, then we would all have equal access to clean air, food, and water; to free education and health care; to guaranteed housing; and to a culture of togetherness. All we are saying is give peace a chance." To an anxious world grasping for hope, the Vision presented an alternative future: a future of hope.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VISION WORK ...

Inter Occupy Vision Hub URL:

<http://interoccupy.net/vision>

Occupy National Gathering Vision for a Democratic Future (long list):
<http://www.occupynationalgathering.com/vision-for-democratic-future/>

InterOccupy Vision Hub WIKI (SCROLL DOWN FOR ARCHIVED DOCUMENTS):

http://wiki.occupy.net/wiki/A_Vision_for_a_Democratic_Future

To participate in the National Gathering Vision E-mail List:

<https://lists.mayfirst.org/mailman/listinfo/ing-vision>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT ...

News, events, hubs, calendar via Inter Occupy:

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